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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APR 06 2001

In re Application of:  
ANTONUCCI et al  
Serial No. 702,322  
Filed: October 31, 2000  
For: POLYMERIC...ABOVE 100°C

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700  
Group: 3728

600 Third Avenue  
New York N.Y. 10016  
March 30, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, insert

Prior Application

This application is a division of U.S. patent application  
Serial No. 09/206,849 filed December 7, 1998, now U.S. Patent No.  
6,156,184.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1 to 3 and add the following claims:

12. A method for conditioning a polymeric proton exchange  
membrane for operation at temperatures above 100°C, the method  
comprising the steps of:

a: heating the membrane to a temperature at least about 5°C  
above its said operating temperature;

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